

REPORT
OF THE
GOVERNOR AND COMMITTEE
OF THE
HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY,

TO BE
LAI D BEFORE THE SHAREHOLDERS
ON TUESDAY, JULY 12TH 1898.



LONDON :
PRINTERS: SIR JOSEPH CAUSTON AND SONS, LIMITED,
9, EASTCHEAP, E.C.

1898.

DIRECTORS.

Governor.

LORD STRATHCONA & MOUNT ROYAL, G.C.M.G.

Deputy-Governor.

THE EARL OF LICHFIELD.

Committee.

SIR SANDFORD FLEMING, K.C.M.G.

RUSSELL STEPHENSON, Esquire.

W. VAUGHAN MORGAN, Esquire, Alderman.

THOMAS SKINNER, Esquire.

JOHN COLES, Esquire.

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

A GENERAL COURT of the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay will be held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, on Tuesday, the 12th July next, at 12.30 p.m., when a Report from the Governor and Committee will be laid before the Shareholders, and a Dividend declared.

In accordance with the provisions of the Company's Charters, the following Members of the Board retire by rotation, and will be proposed for re-election: The EARL OF LICHFIELD, Deputy Governor, and Mr. Alderman VAUGHAN MORGAN.

Mr. THOMAS A. WELTON will be proposed for re-election to the office of Auditor of the Company.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed on the 24th instant, and reopened on the 13th July.

By order of the Board,

W. WARE,
Secretary.

HUDSON'S BAY HOUSE,
LONDON, *June 21st*, 1898.

REPORT.

THE Governor and Committee have now to submit to the Proprietors the Annual Accounts, which show a profit of £69,373 7s. 9d., to which is to be added the sum of £21,999 12s. 1d. brought forward from last year, making a total of £91,372 19s. 10d., and they recommend that a dividend of Thirteen shillings per share, free of Income Tax, be paid for the year ending 31st May, 1898, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £26,372 19s. 10d.

The collection of Furs for the Outfit dealt with in the Accounts was smaller than that of the preceding Outfit, but a considerable improvement in the prices realized for many descriptions at the March Sales more than compensated for the diminished quantities. As far as can at present be ascertained, it is feared that the total collection of Furs to be offered next spring will fall short of that of the present year.

The General Trade for the year ending 31st May, 1897, was affected by the unfavorable condition of business throughout America during most of that period, and though matters improved later on, the profits fell short of those of the previous year. The business at many of the Company's Stores has since been advantageously affected by the improved state of trade in Canada, and the developments in British Columbia and the Yukon District, owing to the recent gold discoveries, but this does not enter into the accounts now presented to the Shareholders.

The Board, after full consideration and consultation with the Commissioner who came to England in February last, have taken measures to establish new Posts and to increase the River Steamboat accommodation on the route to the gold

mines, and generally, to secure to the Company as large a proportion as possible of the new business arising from these developments. There is every reason for counting on good results in the near future from this outlay.

The Land Account shows that the receipts for instalments, interest, rents, &c., are better than last year, being £25,933 17s. 4d., as against £21,961 1s. 4d.

Farm Land Sales amount to 37,923 acres for \$183,890, averaging \$4.85 per acre, as compared with 10,784 acres for \$53,277, averaging \$4.94 per acre, the average price per acre again showing a slight decrease.

Town Lots realized \$9,174, as against \$36,480 in the previous year. This falling off is largely accounted for by the greater attraction of the newly developed Mining districts.

Taxes are £700 higher, owing chiefly to the new School Districts arising from increased settlement in the Territories: it is probable that this item will grow as the country fills up, though at the same time the increasing population requiring the establishment of additional schools cannot but add to the value of the lands.

An active demand both for Farm Lands and Town Lots has recently set in, owing to the improvement existing generally throughout the North-West, and larger sales are now being made than for some time past.

The Earl of LICHFIELD, Deputy-Governor, and Mr. Alderman VAUGHAN MORGAN, are the Members of the Board retiring on this occasion, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Mr. THOMAS A. WELTON, the Auditor, also offers himself for re-election.

On behalf of the Governor and Committee,

STRATHCONA.

Shewing the results of Trade of Outfit 1896, and the Income
Dr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Inventories 1st June, 1896, viz.—						
General Goods	388,646	0	8			
Advances from Outfit 1895	113,587	12	0			
Ships and Steamers in Canada	10,824	19	8			
Buildings and other property	132,293	18	9			
Cash at Trading Stations	6,883	19	4			
Balances due by—						
Customers	£118,004	9	5			
Clerks and Servants	1,007	3	11			
				119,011	13	4
				771,248	3	9
Less Balances due to—						
Customers	£13,999	7	2			
Clerks and Servants	8,304	18	6			
				22,304	5	8
						748,943 18 1
" Goods purchased in England						73,310 14 7
" Payments in Canada (from proceeds of Bills drawn on London and cash from Land Department) for Goods, Customs Duties and Freight						90,135 13 6
" Sundry Credits to Officers and Servants						4,665 12 4
" Other Debits incidental to carrying on the trade	4,018	19	11			
Less Sundry Credits	989	5	10			
						3,029 14 1
" EXPENSES INCURRED IN LONDON—						
Governor and Committee	2,200	0	0			
Warehouse Expenses and Salaries of Secretary and Staff	4,591	0	7			
Rent and Taxes of Warehouse and Offices	£4,681	1	11			
Less Rent received	1,615	17	8			
				3,065	4	3
Office Expenses, including Stationery, Printing, Advertising, Telegrams, Postages, Law Charges, &c.				1,186	18	8
						11,043 3 6
" Pensions in London						705 10 0
" Interest on Officers' and Servants' Deposits						2,040 15 9
" Income Tax						1,870 11 4
" Payment to Bishop of Rupert's Land under agreement with the Company and order of the Court of Chancery, dated December, 1849						300 0 0
" Auditor's Fee						150 0 0
" Balance, being Net Profits for year to 31st May, 1898						69,373 7 9
						£1,005,569 0 11

LOSS ACCOUNT.

and Expenditure in London for one year to 31st May, 1898.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Proceeds of Furs	244,091	4	2			
„ „ „ Other Imports	7,689	17	5			
	251,781	1	7			
Less Freight, Dock Charges, Insurance and Cartage	7,363	8	8			
				244,417	12	11
„ Bills remitted to London .. .. .	..	..	..	3,025	7	10
„ Sundry Debits to Officers and Servants.. .. .	..	..	..	7,013	17	7
„ Inventories 31st May, 1897, viz.—						
General Goods	391,999	4	7			
Advances to Outfit 1897	102,898	14	10			
Ships and Steamers in Canada	9,619	15	9			
Buildings and other property	134,232	10	0			
Cash at Trading Stations	8,432	7	10			
Balances due by—						
Customers	4111,306	14	10			
Clerks and Servants	1,477	10	0			
	112,784	4	10			
	759,966	17	10			
Less Balances due to—						
Customers	£14,840	5	3			
Clerks and Servants	8,332	3	9			
	23,172	9	0			
				736,794	8	10
„ Dividends, Interest and Transfer Fees .. .. .	..	..	..	2,295	5	2
„ Balance transferred from Land Account .. .. .	..	..	..	9,499	19	1
„ Profit from Underwriting Account .. .. .	..	..	..	2,522	9	6

£1,005,569 0 11

LAND

Dr.

Cash Receipts and Payments for

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Municipal and other Taxes .. .. .	..	..	..	13,307	5	4
„ Repairs and Improvements .. .. .	..	..	..	4	0	2
„ Salaries	£1,137	13	5			
„ Surveyors inspecting and reporting on Lands ..	..	641	8	1		
„ Office Expenses and Commission on Sales ..	..	736	1	11		
„ Legal Expenses .. .. .	..	257	9	4		
„ Share of London Expenses and Advertising ..	..	350	0	0		
				3,122	12	9
„ Balance transferred to Profit and Loss Account .. .. .	..	..	..	9,499	19	1
				£25,933	17	4

BALANCE

Dr.

31st May,

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Capital—						
100,000 Shares of £20 each	2,000,000	0	0			
Less return to Proprietors of £7 per Share ..	700,000	0	0			
				1,300,000	0	0
„ Amount due to Commissioned Officers and Servants on their Deposits in London	59,954	19	3			
„ Amount due, as per Inventory 31st May, 1897, to—						
Customers	£14,840	5	3			
Clerks and Servants	8,332	3	9			
				23,172	9	0
„ Unpaid Dividends, and other Balances (exclusive of amount due in respect of Goods in course of shipment on 31st May, 1898, not included in assets <i>per contra</i>)	1,799	1	4			
				84,926	9	7
„ Insurance and Reserve Fund				60,000	0	0
„ Undivided Profits, viz. :—						
Balance brought forward 1st June, 1897	86,999	12	1			
Less Dividend paid 6th July, 1897	65,000	0	0			
	21,999	12	1			
Profits for year, as per Profit and Loss Account ..	69,373	7	9			
				91,372	19	10
				£1,536,299	9	5

I have examined the Books, Accounts, and Vouchers of the Company and I hereby certify that the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account are

5, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON, E.C.
20th June, 1898.

ACCOUNT.

the Year ending 31st March, 1898.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cash received for Sales of Land :—						
Winnipeg Town Lots	390	6	1			
Rat Portage	2,594	7	7			
Fort William	274	3	3			
Other Town Lots	352	19	11			
Farming Lands	15,525	2	1			
				19,136	18	11
„ Interest on unpaid Instalments and Rents				6,796	18	5
				<u>£25,933</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>4</u>

SHEET.

1898.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cash in hand and on Deposit in London				96,712	1	10
„ Sundry Investments in London				63,312	10	0
„ Amount invested in the Fur Trade (exclusive of Goods in course of Shipment), viz. : Valuation of Trading Goods, Provisions, Stores, &c., as per Inventory 31st May, 1897	638,750	5	2			
Cash at Trading Stations, 31st May, 1897	8,432	7	10			
Amount due as per Inventory 31st May, 1897, by— Customers	£111,306	14	10			
Clerks and Servants	1,477	10	0			
	<u>112,784</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>			
				759,966	17	10
Advances in London for carrying on the Trade, sub- sequent to 31st May, 1897	212,549	4	3			
Ocean Ships and Steamers employed in the Trade ..	3,544	8	1			
				976,060	10	2
„ Balance represented by the remaining Property of the Company ..				400,214	7	5
				<u>£1,536,299</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>

London, and the various authenticated Statements received from Canada,
in accordance therewith.

THOMAS A. WELTON
(WELTON, JONES & Co.)

